

**Period of Mystagogy:** After you have received the sacraments of initiation, reflection continues on the sacraments, especially the Eucharist which is the source and summit of the Christian faith. This period is designed to help you understand the importance of the sacramental life and how closely related the sacraments are to your journey of faith.

Even though the RCIA sessions eventually come to an end, the conversion process continues with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the sacraments and the support of the entire Church community – the true Body of Christ.

## Who should attend RCIA?

- Non-Baptized adults who want to be initiated as a Christian in the Catholic tradition.
- Baptized non-Catholic Christians who desire the fullness of the Christian faith.
- Baptized Catholics who have not had First Eucharist and/or Confirmation.
- Catholics who desire a formal program of adult-based catechetical study to enrich their faith.

For more information, please contact the RCIA team at:

- Sacred Heart Parish in Gladwin at 989-426-7154
- St. Athanasius Parish in Harrison at 989-539-6232
- Or visit [www.gladwinharrisoncatholic.com](http://www.gladwinharrisoncatholic.com)

If you find yourself reading this, perhaps the Holy Spirit is reaching out to you and quietly extending a personal invitation to you to join us for this remarkable journey of faith. Come to an inquiry meeting and find out!

# CURIOUS ABOUT BECOMING CATHOLIC? (or know someone who might be?)

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We invite you to join us for a remarkable journey!

## RCIA

*The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults*



“Blessed are you that hunger now, for you shall be satisfied.” Luke 6:21

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is not a program, but a sacramental formation process that prepares you for a life of spiritual conversion. Through the workings of the Holy Spirit, the liturgical rites, the prayerful support of the Church community and a truly dedicated team of people sharing the faith and walking the journey with you, it is our hope that you will enter into a deeper union with Christ on a level that is truly life-changing.



The RCIA process is divided into different periods throughout a time-frame that typically lasts 8-9 months. Throughout this process, you will never be asked to walk alone. The RCIA team will be there with you – every step of the way.



**Period of Inquiry:** This is the time for asking questions and getting answers. It has no fixed duration. This is when the Gospel message is presented to you and you decide if you want to formally continue with the spiritual conversion process. This will lead to...

...the Rites of Acceptance and

Welcoming. If you have decided to continue, then you formally accept the invitation from the Church to continue your spiritual journey. In reciprocity, the Church formally welcomes you into to our community. These rites are liturgical ceremonies at Sacred Heart Parish or St. Athanasius Parish, publicly marking the formal start of your journey.

**Period of Catechumenate:** This is the longest period, lasting some twenty weeks, in which you will be taught in depth about Catholic beliefs and practices based upon Scripture and Sacred Tradition.

After a period of discernment, the Sacred Heart and St. Athanasius communities will send you to the Bishop of the Diocese of Saginaw, where he will welcome you and hundreds of others on their journeys of faith. This will give witness on behalf of the entire diocesan community that you agree to embrace the mission of Jesus as you continue with the process of conversion.



**Period of Enlightenment:** This is the time during Lent where there is a greater emphasis on your internal commitment to embracing a life in Christ. This will lead to...



...the Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation and Healing. These sacraments are celebrated by you for the first time during the Easter Vigil, thereby bringing you into full communion with the Catholic Church. They are:

*The Sacrament of Baptism* is the foundation of life in the Holy Spirit and through it, we become the sons and daughters of God where we are given a share in the divinity of Christ and in His mission of salvation.

*The Sacrament of Eucharist* is the real presence of Christ given to us by Him to feed our souls. It is a celebration of thanksgiving that commemorates Christ's sacrifice and offer of salvation.

*The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation* (commonly called Penance, Reconciliation or Confession) in which the faithful obtain absolution for their sins.

*The Sacrament of Confirmation* is where the Holy Spirit strengthens the Baptized so that the individual may live out the faith that is professed.